

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01720 241001Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
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R 240931Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4154
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, JO, SY, SP, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER SAID PLANNING OFFICIAL VISIT TO
SPAIN BEFORE JUNE ELECTION

SUMMARY. IN A COMMENT TO A REPORTER MARCH 21, FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDERSEN REVEALED HIS PLANS TO VISIT SPAIN BEFORE
THE ELECTIONS IN JUNE. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPANISH VISIT
HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN UP OFFICIALLY WITH THE SPANISH
AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY

1. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN TOLD A RITZAU
NEWS BUREAU REPORTER MARCH 21 THAT HE PLANNED AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO SPAIN TO CONFER WITH HIS SPANISH COLLEAGUE
MARCELINO OREJA AGUIRRE BEFORE THE SPANISH ELECTIONS.
THE ITEM HAS BEEN CARRIED IN ALL DANISH MEDIA. HIS VISIT
TO SPAIN WOULD BE THE FIRST SUCH VISIT BY A DANISH
FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE THE CIVIL WAR. ACCORDING TO THE
NEWS REPORTS, THE DANISH TRADE DEFICIT WITH SPAIN
(195 MILLION KRONER EXCLUDING TOURIST TRANSFERS IN
1976) WOULD BE THE PRINCIPAL DISCUSSION THEME,
ALTHOUGH THE TRIP IN ITSELF HAS MAJOR POLITICAL
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SIGNIFICANCE.

2. THE SPANISH DCM HERE TOLD US MARCH 22 THAT HE WAS
UNAWARE OF ANY PLAN FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN
BY THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER. AND YESTERDAY (MARCH
23), A DANISH MFA OFFICIAL INFORMED US THAT NO OFFICIAL
REPRESENTATIONS OR PLANS HAD BEEN MADE FOR A VISIT

BY ANDERSEN TO SPAIN. EVEN THE DANISH EMBASSY IN MADRID WAS IN THE DARK AND ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR CLARIFICATION. THE MFA SOURCE CONFIRMED NEWS REPORTS THAT DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN ARE GOING SO WELL THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT NO LONGER CONSIDERS INTERNAL CONDITIONS IN SPAIN A BARRIER TO THE CONDUCT OF NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT OFFICIAL APPROACHES TO ARRANGE A VISIT HAD IN FACT BEEN PLANNED, BUT NO DETAILS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT. OF THE EC COUNTRIES, ONLY DENMARK, THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS HAD NOT YET SENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON VISITS TO MADRID, AND IT WAS FELT THE TIME HAD COME FOR DENMARK TO DO SO.

3. COMMENT: K.B. ANDERSEN'S SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES THAT THE DANES HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THE CHANGES IN SPAIN AND THAT A VISIT BY A KEY DANISH OFFICIAL IS NO LONGER POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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